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balance in favor of Union and an organized government, — a circumstance which led to the adoption, by common consent, of Federal Street as the name of the thoroughfare, in place of the more homely designation by which it had been previously known. In the neighboring vestry was organized one of the most beneficent charities in this community, — the Benevolent Fraternity of Churches; * and at a more recent period in the same building was established another noble charity, — the Home for the Incurable. Many other religious and philanthropic enterprises have also been more or less closely connected with the principal edifice, as the place where their yearly anniversaries were celebrated.

The discourse which was delivered under the inspiration of these associations and others of a more private character, when the meeting-house was opened for the last time for religious services, fully meets the requirements of the occasion. In words of mingled pathos and of fervid eloquence, the preacher retraces the history of the Society and of its successive houses of worship, delineating in few and fit words the lives and characters of those who had preceded him in the sacred ministry, and not forgetting to impress on his hearers the lessons of Christian truth which the occasion was so well suited to impart. The other addresses are necessarily of a more personal character; but they are all marked by good taste and a just appreciation of what was proper to be uttered in those last hours and to that crowded assembly. The Appendix contains a number of illustrative notes, and engravings of the meeting-house in which the Convention was held, and of that which was removed last year. Altogether the Memorial is an acceptable contribution to the increasing stores of historical and biographical lore.

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11. — *The Poetical Works of ROBERT SOUTHEY. With a Memoir of the Author.* In Ten Volumes. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1860. 16mo.

THE extent to which this issue of the British Poets has been carried indicates at once the generous confidence of the publishers in the good sense and good taste of our people, and the degree in which that confidence has verified itself. One hundred and fifteen volumes have already appeared, and in so high and even a style of excellence, that it

* Of the nine "sons of the parish" who took part in the afternoon services, four had been, or were at that time, engaged in the work of the Ministry at Large under the direction of the Benevolent Fraternity of Churches.

would be impossible to say that any one poet has fared better or worse than his brethren, as to the details of editorial labor, or the minute fidelity of the press. Of each author we have a well-written biography, together with such prefaces, appendices, notes, and critical apparatus of every kind, as are needed by each. We hesitate not to say, that the earlier poets, those abounding in obsolete words, those whose subjects need elucidation, and those who are obscure through whim or affectation, can be read more satisfactorily in this edition than in any other. Indeed, as regards certain living poets we could name, it would be an inestimable advantage for them to be taken under the care of these publishers and their editors ; for in that case there might be some hope of understanding them.

We are glad to see so complete an edition of Southey, for there are hardly any of his poems that we could afford to miss. He had traits which are wanting in a large part of what aspires to be the best poetry of our time. He had not reached the stage at which faults are cherished as individualities, and broken metres, elliptical utterances, foreign idioms, and vulgarisms are deemed tokens of genius. Poetry was to him equally an inspiration and an art ; elaborate finish characterizes even his juvenile and fugitive pieces ; and in his longer poems the traces of careful thought and accurate erudition are as prominent as those of an affluent fancy and a bold imagination. It is refreshing to retreat from the false taste, the coarseness and irreverence, which too often offend our sober judgment in the poetry of our own day, to one whose active conscience and vivid sense of responsibility for the use of his powers formed a standard of purity, truth, and dignity, below which he never suffered himself to sink. The present edition bears all the marks of faithful editorship, and the Memoir, by Henry T. Tuckerman, is at once a comprehensive sketch of the poet's life, and an able and discriminating criticism of his genius.

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12. — *Fresh Hearts that failed Three Thousand Years ago ; with other Things.* By the Author of "The New Priest in Conception Bay." Boston : Ticknor and Fields. 1860. 16mo. pp. 121.

IN "The New Priest" Mr. Lowell showed himself a true poet, and in verse he more than verifies the promise of his prose. In the few instances in which he betrays the inspiration caught from the scenes of his island home and the perils of the sea, he manifests a special aptency and adaptation for that description of imagery, and it is evident that he here opens a vein which he might work with the surest and